

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 9, 10, 11, and 13-16 remain pending after amendment.

By this amendment, claims 1-8 and 12 are cancelled.

In the Action, the Examiner has kindly indicated that claim 12 was objected to but contained allowable subject matter. In order to advance this case, Applicant has now merged the subject matter of claim 12 with claim 9. It is noted that the subject matter of claim 12 is completely absent the prior art and therefore, by this merger between the independent claim 9 and claim 12, it is believed that the case defines patentable subject matter. This is equally true of the claims dependent on amended claim 9.

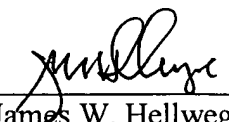
With respect to the remaining objections in the case it is believed that all of the objections under 35 USC § 102 and 35 USC § 103 are now moot in view of Applicant's amendment to the method independent claim.

Finally, Applicant has also amended the specification to provide information regarding Figure 1.

In view of the amendments made, it is now believed that the claims pending in this case define patentable subject matter over the references cited in this case. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By:


James W. Hellwege
Registration No. 28,808

Birch, Stewart, Kolasch & Birch LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
Falls Church, Virginia 22042

JWH/sh